

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Amendments to Specification:

Please replace the corresponding numbered paragraphs in the above-referenced application with the following:

[10] Figure 1 illustrates a cross-section of a side elevation view of a colostomy appliance applied to a wearer's skin in an area of a stoma;

[15] FIG. 1 is a cross section side elevation view of a colostomy appliance 20, illustrated by a cap, applied to a wearer's skin 10 in an area of a stoma 12 of the human body. The colostomy appliance 20~~6~~ may be round, rectangular, or any other shape known in the art suitable for performing the function of the colostomy appliance. The colostomy appliance 20 may be any type of appliance for fitting over the stoma 12, such as the COLOPLAST~~C~~oloplast® 5540, 5560 & 5700, and the CONVATEC~~C~~onvatec® 22710. The appliance 20 includes an outer-surface portion 28 and a wearer's skin-side portion 29.

[16] The skin-side portion 29 includes an adhesive portion 22 that surrounds an inlet 24 of the appliance 20, and that is arranged for removable adhesive attachment to the wearer's skin 10 and for mating alignment with the wearer's stoma 12. The appliance 20 further includes a chamber 26 for receiving gases and waste products discharged from the stoma 12. The outer surface 28 of the colostomy appliance faces away from the wearer's skin 10 and will contact the wearer's clothing or a person in intimate contact with the wearer. The colostomy appliance 20, including the outer surface portion 28 and the skin-side portion 29, is typically made from non-breathable materials that frictionally resist movement of the wearer's clothing relative to the appliance. Furthermore, perspiration and moisture typically form in area 14 between the wearer's skin 10 and the skin-side portion 29 of the colostomy appliance 20~~6~~.

[22] The sheet of elastic, breathable material 48 may be any elastic, breathable material known to those in the art, including fabric materials with a weave that allows breathability, and materials perforated for breathability. The material 48 includes sufficient elasticity for the expandable opening 46 to be pulled over an outside diameter (not shown) of a colostomy appliance 10 without significantly distorting the appliance. The edge of the opening 46 can be ~~surged~~serged with a flexible stitching to prevent unraveling while allowing the colostomy appliance cover 40 to be easily put on and removed. The colostomy appliance cover 40 may be constructed in a variety of colors and utilize a variety of decorative patterns.

[23] An example of an ostomy appliance cover was made to cover a round Coloplast® model 5540 stoma cap cover having a 4.6-inch overall outside diameter, and an outside diameter around the adhesive portion 22 of 2.8 inches. A commonly available Lycra Spandex® material having at least one low coefficient of friction surface 45 was used for both the flexible material 44 and the sheet of elastic, breathable material 48. The two sides are cut such that their outer peripheries, when sewn together by seam 42, form an inner diameter (not shown) of approximately 4.8 inches. Generally, it has been found that the cover 40 functions well when between one-sixteenth and one-fourth-inch larger than the stoma appliance cover 20, with one-eighth-inch being a preferred dimension. The opening 46 in the material 48 is cut for a finished diameter of approximately 2.4 inches; being slightly smaller than the 2.8-inch outside diameter of the adhesive portion 22 and providing a small, elastic gripping of the appliance cover 20 by the stoma cap cover 40 at the adhesive portion. The opening 46 is reinforced with stitching 47 in a zigzag pattern about the opening with an elastic thread at about 8-12 stitches per inch. The seam 42 is sewn in a straight pattern with an elastic thread at 8-12 stitches per inch. Typically, the two pieces of material are sewn together inside out, and then turned right side out to provide a finished edge and look.

[27] Additional advantages of the colostomy appliance cover 40 include being reusable and easy to maintain. It launders easily due to the material it is constructed from, such as Lycra Spandex® which dries quickly for reuse. A spare colostomy appliance cover 40 can be carried unobtrusively on one's person.